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SENATE BILL 1067

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Bernadette M Sanchez

AN ACT

**RELATING TO HEALTH; CREATING A MULTICULTURAL HEALTH OFFICE IN
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; PRESCRIBING POWERS; CREATING A HEALTH
ADVISORY COUNCIL AND A NATIVE AMERICAN HEALTH COMMISSION;
PRESCRIBING DUTIES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. MULTICULTURAL HEALTH OFFICE CREATED-- POWERS. --

**A. The "multicultural health office" is created in
the department of health, to be headed by a director appointed
by the secretary of health. The office shall:**

**(1) review and make recommendations to the
secretary on the orientation, substance and implementation of
all department programs as they affect multicultural
populations;**

(2) ensure that public information efforts of

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1 the department, both promotional and educational, are designed
2 for maximum effectiveness among multicultural populations;

3 (3) integrate technical assistance to all
4 agencies of the department to ensure program implementation
5 with appropriate cultural sensitivity;

6 (4) develop standards and monitor programs for
7 accountability in regard to cultural considerations;

8 (5) cooperate with the New Mexico health
9 policy commission in gathering health data and information on
10 health problems specific to the various multicultural
11 populations; and

12 (6) ensure departmental emphasis on prevention
13 and early intervention programs for multicultural populations.

14 B. The New Mexico health policy commission shall,
15 after consultation with the multicultural health advisory
16 council and the Native American health commission, design and
17 implement a data collection system to provide all appropriate
18 information necessary to make optimum health care policy to
19 best serve New Mexico's diverse populations.

20 Section 2. MULTICULTURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL--
21 DUTIES. --

22 A. The "multicultural health advisory council" is
23 created consisting of eleven members, each of whom must be a
24 member of a cultural or ethnic group, to be appointed by and
25 serve at the pleasure of the governor. Appointees shall be

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1 selected from recommendations made to the governor from various
2 statewide and regional cultural and ethnic groups and
3 populations affected by state health programs, and shall
4 include:

- 5 (1) one member from the Navajo Nation;
 - 6 (2) one member from the Apache tribes;
 - 7 (3) three members from various pueblos;
 - 8 (4) three members of Hispanic descent; and
 - 9 (5) three members from other cultural
- 10 populations, selected to give representation to rural and urban
11 populations around the state, as well as to advocacy and
12 consumer organizations.

13 B. The council shall elect a chair from among its
14 members and shall meet quarterly or at the call of the chair to
15 consider and make recommendations to the secretary of health on
16 health needs of various multicultural populations, including:

- 17 (1) special needs related to chronic and other
18 health conditions more prevalent among minorities than other
19 population groups;
- 20 (2) access to health care services and
21 programs for multicultural populations;
- 22 (3) improved cooperation and coordination
23 between the department of health and other health care delivery
24 systems operating in New Mexico;
- 25 (4) issues unique to border and migrant

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1 populations;

2 (5) appropriate cultural competence course
3 material for all health education programs in New Mexico's
4 institutions of higher education; and

5 (6) levels of appropriate cultural competence
6 to be included in licensing requirements for all New Mexico
7 health-related professions.

8 Section 3. OFFICE DIVISIONS--DUTIES.--The multicultural
9 health office shall have two divisions with responsibilities
10 and duties as follows:

11 A. an Hispanic population division with the duty to
12 assess, investigate and make recommendations to the department
13 for methods to improve the health of New Mexico's Hispanic
14 populations; and

15 B. a Native American population division with the
16 duty to assess, investigate and make recommendations to the
17 department for methods to improve the health of New Mexico's
18 Native American populations.

19 Section 4. NATIVE AMERICAN HEALTH COMMISSION--
20 MEMBERSHIP-- APPOINTMENT-- DUTIES.--

21 A. The "Native American health advisory commission"
22 is created and is administratively attached to the department
23 of health. Members of the commission shall be appointed for
24 two year terms by and serve at the pleasure of the governor and
25 shall be selected as follows:

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1 (1) the president of the Navajo Nation or a
2 designee;

3 (2) the president of the Mescalero Apache
4 tribe or a designee, serving alternate two years terms with the
5 president of the Jicarilla Apache Nation or a designee;

6 (3) two members recommended by the chair of
7 the all Indian pueblo council;

8 (4) a representative of the Indian health
9 service familiar with the needs of the Navajo Nation
10 reservation population;

11 (5) a representative of the Indian health
12 service familiar with the needs of the Navajo Nation urban
13 population living in the Albuquerque area;

14 (6) a representative from the center for
15 Native American health at the university of New Mexico;

16 (7) a Native American individual health care
17 practitioner providing services to an urban Native American
18 population;

19 (8) the secretary of human services or a
20 designee;

21 (9) the secretary of health or a designee;

22 (10) the secretary of children, youth and
23 families or a designee;

24 (11) the secretary of public education or a
25 designee; and

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(12) the secretary of Indian affairs or a designee.

B. The commission shall assess, investigate and make recommendations to the multicultural health office and to the secretary of health on health issues, specific or unique to Native American populations and the health care systems that serve them.

Section 5. APPROPRIATION. -- Three hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$375,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the department of health for expenditure in fiscal year 2006 to establish and maintain the multicultural health office in the department. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2006 shall revert to the general fund.

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